



# **MINUTES**

## **Studies Committee of the Legislative Council**

June 27, 2005

Second Meeting of the 2005-2006 Biennium

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Stewart Iverson, Jr.,  
Co-vice Chairperson  
Senator Amanda Ragan  
Co-vice Chairperson  
Senator Nancy Boettger  
Senator Michael Gronstal  
Senator John P. Kibbie  
Senator Jeff Lamberti

Representative Sandra Greiner,  
Chairperson  
Representative Pat Murphy  
Representative Phil Wise

## **MEETING IN BRIEF**

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- I. Procedural Business.**
- II. Consideration of Guidelines for Interim Studies Committees.**
- III. Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies.**
- IV. Report of the Studies Committee.**
- V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency.**
- VI. Attachments.**



## Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

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### **I. Procedural Business.**

**Convening.** Chairperson Greiner called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. on Monday, June 27, 2005, in Room 22 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Approval of Minutes.** The minutes from the June 29, 2004, meeting of the Studies Committee and the minutes from the March 28, 2005, meeting of the Studies Committee were approved.

**Consideration of Guidelines and Study Proposals.** Committee actions are summarized in these minutes.

**Adjournment.** The Studies Committee adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

### **II. Consideration of Guidelines for Interim Studies Committees.**

Proposed guidelines for interim studies for 2005 and 2006 were included in the Committee packet. The guidelines from the previous biennium were amended to require a majority of a study committee's voting members present to carry any action; however, recommendations to the Legislative Council or General Assembly must be adopted with the affirmative votes of a majority of the Committee's members of each house. Also, for the 2005 Interim, the deadline for completion of interim study committee meetings is set at November 25, 2005, and the 2006 interim deadline is set at December 15, 2006. Upon a motion by Co-vice Chairperson Iverson, the Studies Committee adopted on a voice vote the proposed guidelines for interim studies. A copy of the guidelines is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

### **III. Consideration of Proposed Interim Studies.**

Chairperson Greiner offered a proposed list of interim studies for the 2005 Interim. Chairperson Greiner and Co-vice Chairperson Iverson proposed to modify the interim committee proposal on genetically modified organisms to include six members of the Senate and five members of the House instead of four and three, respectively, and proposed to increase the number of meeting days from one day to two days. Upon a motion by Co-vice Chairperson Iverson, the Studies Committee adopted on a voice vote the proposed list of interim studies offered by Chairperson Greiner as amended by the modifications proposed by Chairperson Greiner and Co-vice Chairperson Iverson.

### **IV. Report of the Studies Committee.**

The proposals adopted by the Committee were compiled into one report to be presented to the Legislative Council. A copy of the Committee report is attached to these minutes as Attachment B.

### **V. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency.**

**A.** Studies Compilation: 2005 Legislative Interim Study Information, prepared by the Legislative Services Agency.

**B.** 2005 Legislative Interim Studies Proposal, distributed by Chairperson Greiner.

**C.** Minutes of the June 29, 2004, meeting of the Studies Committee.



**D.** Minutes of the March 28, 2005, meeting of the Studies Committee.

**VI. Attachments.**

**A.** Guidelines for Interim Study Committees.

**B.** Report of the Studies Committee.

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# **GUIDELINES FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES**

## **2005-2006 INTERIMS**

Submitted to Legislative Council June 27, 2005

### ADOPTION OF RULES

Interim study committees must have a majority of the members representing each house voting affirmatively in order to adopt rules.

### COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

Persons serving as public members of study committees are eligible to receive actual expenses only, if they are not eligible for expense reimbursement by an organization that they represent. In order for a public member representing an organization to be eligible to receive actual expenses, the organization must submit a letter to the Legislative Council indicating that the public member is not eligible for the reimbursement from the organization. Payment of the expenses is subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Legislative Council.

### STAFF WORK FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

After consultation with, as appropriate, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) Director, a study committee chair may authorize research or legislative drafting work by the LSA for public members of study committees.

### APPROVAL OF NOMINEES

Public members of study committees may be nominated by designated organizations, subject to Legislative Council approval or subject to the approval of the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Council in consultation with the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

### GENDER BALANCE

Appointment of public members to study committees shall be gender balanced.

## APPROVAL OF ACTIONS

A majority vote of a study committee's voting members present is necessary to carry any action; however, recommendations to the Legislative Council or General Assembly must be adopted with the affirmative votes of a majority of the committee's members of each house.

## VOTING BY PUBLIC MEMBERS

Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly or the Legislative Council, public members of study committees are nonvoting.

## APPROVAL OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE DES MOINES

Any meeting or public hearing by a study committee held outside of Des Moines requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee or legislative leadership.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

When authorization is given for a study committee to hold a public hearing, the committee may hold one hearing as a body or individual members may each hold a public hearing or groups of two or more members may hold public hearings. However, for each authorized public hearing, no members of the study committee may receive compensation for attendance at more than one session.

## APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR SPEAKERS AND CONSULTING WORK

Any expenditure by a study committee for a speaker or presentation requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and Legislative Council, or legislative leadership. Contractual consulting work for a study committee requires the prior approval of the Studies Committee and the Legislative Council.

## SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

For the 2005 interim, the deadline for completion of interim study committee meetings is November 25, 2005, and for the 2006 interim the deadline is December 15, 2006. An interim study committee must meet the deadline or receive an exemption or a revised deadline date from the Legislative Council.

# **REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**June 27, 2005**

The Studies Committee of the Legislative Council met on June 27, 2005, and makes the following report for approval by the Legislative Council:

**A. Guidelines.** That the attached guidelines for interim study committees be adopted by the Legislative Council.

**B. Referrals to Existing Committees.** That the following topics be referred to the indicated bodies for consideration:

1. **Elderly Services.** A review of options for unifying the state administration of services utilized by elderly Iowans to the Medical Assistance Projections and Assessment Council created in 2005 Iowa Acts, HF 841.
2. **Rural Water District Liability.** A review of the liability exemption or limitation for rural water districts as provided in Iowa Code section 357A.22A to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the House Committee on Environmental Protection.
3. **Capitol Complex.** Consideration of options for the Wallace State Office Building and other Capitol Complex space issues to the Capital Projects Committee of the Legislative Council.

**C. 2005 Studies.** That the Legislative Council authorize interim study committees for the 2005 Interim with the indicated number of members and meeting days to address the following topics:

1. **Sexual and Other Criminal Offenses, Criminal Penalties, and Sentencing Practices.** Review sexual abuse-related criminal offenses and the sex offender registry; review Iowa's criminal code and make recommendations for the code's reorganization, updating, and revision; review current penalties and sentencing practices, including current mandatory minimum sentences, limitations on parole, and sentence enhancements; and conduct a comparative assessment of relative penalties based on the threat imposed by the prohibited conduct and the risk associated with particular criminal offenders. Make recommendations and findings.  
6 Senate  
5 House  
2 Meeting Days
2. **Medical Malpractice.** Study issues relating to the costs of professional liability (malpractice) insurance coverage for health care providers in Iowa. Consider a broad range of factors affecting the availability of the coverage in the state.  
6 Senate  
5 House  
2 Meeting Days
3. **Nursing Staff in Hospitals.** Review the nurse staffing needs of the hospitals in this state and make recommendations for options to improve hospital nurse staffing levels.  
4 Senate  
3 House  
1 Meeting Day
4. **Motor Vehicle Dealers.** Study Iowa law pertaining to the relocation of a licensed motor vehicle dealership.  
4 Senate  
3 House  
1 Meeting Day

5. **Motor Vehicle Fuel.** Investigate issues relating to the sale of motor vehicle fuel, including minimum markup, selling below cost, and limiting quantities of gasoline.

4 Senate

3 House

1 Meeting Day

6. **Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credit.** Meet in Sioux City to discuss a proposal for a pilot project for a targeted jobs withholding tax credit.

4 Senate

3 House

2 Meeting Days

7. **New Iowans.** Review the impact of the growing population of immigrants, migrant workers, and refugees who are relocating to the state to live and work, often referred to as "New Iowans." Hold a public hearing for each of the following topics in locations around the state: educational needs and opportunities for new Iowans, including discussion of public school programs and requirements and efforts to recruit more teachers from minority groups; health care available to new Iowans, including outreach efforts by the hawk-i program, effects of potential federal Medicaid program reductions, and the identification of appropriate efforts to provide better access to affordable health care for new Iowans; job creation and outreach efforts directed to new Iowans, including the widespread focus on bilingual and multilingual skills in the current economy, efforts by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the impact of the New Iowans centers established by the Department of Workforce Development, and discussions of other efforts needed to improve job creation for New Iowans; and public safety issues involving new Iowans, including racial profiling used by state and local police and proposals to make drivers' licenses available to undocumented immigrants.

6 Senate

5 House

4 Public Hearings and 1 Meeting Day

8. **Judicial District and Judicial Resources Study Committee.** This 2003/2004 interim study committee is authorized to meet in the 2005 interim to continue its work.

2 Senate

2 House

27 public members

4 meeting days

9. **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).** Review issues regarding the use of genetically modified organisms in agricultural production.

6 Senate

5 House

2 Meeting Days

**D. Public Retirement.** That the Legislative Council take note that the Public Retirement Systems Committee created in Iowa Code section 97D.4 will be meeting during the 2005 Interim.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Sandy Greiner  
Chairperson